

Compiled by Dennis Roth

### ***Guide to Rural Data***

Priscilla Salant and Anita J. Waller. Washington, DC: Island Press, Revised Edition, 1995, 140 pages. ISBN 1-55963-384-0 (paper) \$22.95. To order, call 1-800-828-1302.

Although population data from the early 1990's show that conditions are improving in many small towns, rural America still lags the rest of the country in income growth. This guide, an updated version of *A Community Researcher's Guide to Rural Data* published in 1990, will acquaint researchers with current data sources from which they can obtain information on rural communities. It explains how to find both printed and electronically distributed data and how to use those data to analyze social and economic change. Chapters describe data on local population and community resources, rural economies, and rural governments. Appendixes include details about Federal statistics programs and addresses/phone numbers for State and Federal offices that house or collect data. The guide also includes a glossary of rural and statistical terms, an index, and reference charts for commonly used statistics. After this book was published, ERS set up its own homepage on the World Wide Web (<http://www.econ.ag.gov>) and ERS staff now have different e-mail addresses (for example, use [jimh@econ.ag.gov](mailto:jimh@econ.ag.gov) instead of [jimh@ers.bitnet](mailto:jimh@ers.bitnet) as shown on page 128). Despite the rapidly changing use of various electronic media for storage and communication of data on rural America, this guide can help researchers, especially those unfamiliar with statistical data, find the information they need.

### ***Community and University: Case Studies and Commentary on University of California Cooperative Extension Interventions***

Alvin D. Sokolow, ed. Davis, CA: California Communities Program, University of California, 1995. 160 pages. Publication 3371 (paper) \$12.00. To order, call 1-916-752-0979.

How university educators and researchers tackle community problems is the focus of this small book. Based on case studies of projects in six different California regions, it examines both the risks and opportunities involved in applying university expertise to controversial local issues. Several commentaries compare

the six cases and offer general lessons about making the transition from academic knowledge to practical application. Much of the book emphasizes strategies for engaging effectively in public policy work at the community level, including aspects of project selection, timing, and collaboration with local actors. The case studies were written by county advisors and campus specialists of the University of California Cooperative Extension who directed recent projects. The community issues they describe deal with water quality, farm animal facility siting, public lands, Hispanic leadership, military base reuse, and Native-American reservations. Interested readers should include outreach educators, program developers, community leaders, and field representatives of development organizations.

### ***Entitled to Power: Farm Women and Technology, 1913-1963***

Katherine Jellison. Durham, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993, 217pp. ISBN 0-8078-4415-2 (paper) \$13.95. To order, call 1-919-966-3561.

Farm women have always performed functions essential to production and family, but the nature and extent of their work have been obscured by the heavy emphasis given to men's economic roles. This neglect has persisted until quite recently despite the fact that, since the early 20th century, mechanization has allowed women to expand or change their roles both on and off the farm. This book is a history of Midwestern farm women's experience with mechanization from 1913 to 1963. Early extension policies encouraged farm women to adopt labor-saving devices so that they could become domestic consumers like middle-class women in the cities. Instead, machinery freed women to gain extra time to pursue off-farm employment and to contribute more to farm-related work. World War II enabled farm women to participate more in field work, thus to some extent breaking down the barriers between spheres of work. During the post-war years, American farms increased capital investments, grew larger in size, and generally became more specialized or more integrated. These farm structural changes provided farm women with more opportunities in farm business. Modern farm conveniences changed the composition of farm women's work, but did not detract from their contributions to the business of farming.